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strangely prone to believe anything that they see in print; and while their common sense revolts at these monstrosities, they come to accept them because a lot of smart critics tell them that they are the thing to admire. It is not too much to say that a majority of the published criticism on contemporary art is really a misfortune, leading astray the artists and the public alike.

At such a time Mr. Cox's book comes as a trumpet-peal, calling the scattered hosts back to the true path that leads to sanity and beauty. Only those art manifestations that are sane and healthy and fair to look upon can hope to endure. Every other form of artistic production is but a fad which may be carried forward for a few years by a blare of trumpets, but which is sure in the long run to be consigned to the scrap-heap. Not all cultivated men are critics. The most of them may be misled for a time; but the meretricious gradually palls upon them and the works that embody some conception of truth and beauty ultimately prevail. It is a pity, however, that the ugly and the perverse should have a temporary success. If everybody would read Mr. Cox's book the number of such temporary successes would be vastly diminished. In nothing else written of late is the gospel of truth and beauty and of sound workmanship so happily set forth. We have much talk of truth and beauty in art by those who have little knowledge and cannot impart to others the reason of their faith. Here is a book that sets forth the true principles in a way that makes a comprehension of them possible to all who read; and its dimensions are so moderate that no reader need be discouraged. He may not be a great art-critic when he has read it; but his feet will be set upon the right road.

GEORGE B. ROSE.

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THE LETTERS OF RICHARD HENRY LEE. Collected and edited by James Curtis Ballagh, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of American History in the Johns Hopkins University. Volume I, 1762-1778. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. pp. xxvii, 467. Price, \$2.50 net.

Scarcely any man of like prominence in his day is so little known as Richard Henry Lee. This is due in no small degree to the fact that no adequate collection of his papers has hitherto been made. The two-volume *Memoir* published by his grandson

in 1825 contained only 70 of his letters. He was not careful to keep a complete collection of his own papers, so that much of what survives was kept by his correspondents and is consequently widely scattered. Dr. Ballagh has shown not only great industry but great resourcefulness in collecting the letters now published. The majority of them have never before been printed; of the others many are reproduced from scattered and obscure publications. Most of the letters were drawn from the manuscript collections of Harvard University, the University of Virginia, and the American Philosophical Society, while stray letters were found in various other manuscript collections in this country and abroad. The present volume is admirably edited and printed.

Richard Henry Lee is best known as the mover of the resolution for a Declaration of Independence. That he did not write the Declaration is due to the fact that he left Philadelphia a few days after offering his resolution and Thomas Jefferson was appointed on the committee in his place. It has usually been stated that he was called home by the illness of his wife, but this appears to be a mistake. The Virginia convention was then in session and on the point of adopting a constitution and electing a governor. From Williamsburg, under date of June 29, 1776, he writes to General Charles Lee: "The desire of being here at the formation of our new Government brought me from Philadelphia the 13th of this month." He remained in Williamsburg until July 6, having witnessed the adoption of the constitution and the election of Patrick Henry as first governor.

Lee's most important work was as a member of the Continental Congress. He was one of the most prominent members of this body, serving as president and on several of the most important committees. His letters on the plans of the war committee and on foreign relations are especially interesting. He was of an enthusiastic temperament and was inclined to exaggerate the extent of American victories as well as of British reverses. In common with other members of Congress he was completely deceived in Gates and Charles Lee, with the latter of whom he kept up an intimate and familiar correspondence. Many of the earlier letters throw an interesting light on affairs

in Virginia in the days preceding the Revolution. He wrote constantly to his brother Arthur, a London barrister, later associated with Franklin and Deane in the mission to Paris, and to his brother William, a London merchant. These letters deal with shipments of tobacco and other plantation business, the education of his sons, the purchase of clothes, and all sorts of business and financial matters. In sending over his two sons in 1772 in his brother William's ship, he writes: "I hope you will make the passage as light as possible, for in fact they have their own bed, and as much provision as they will or can eat during the voyage, so that their water, and the room they take up in the Ship is all the expense they create." This passage and the following order for spectacles give some idea of the inconveniences of American life in those days: "I pray you then to procure me a pair of the best Temple Spectacles that can be had. In fitting these perhaps it may be proper to remember that my age is 46, that my eyes are light colored, and have been quick and strong, but now weakened by constant use. My head thin between the temples."

The letters further show that Lee and other men of the upper class were financially embarrassed and also dissatisfied with the form of government. Writing to Edmund Pendleton just before the adoption of the Virginia constitution he says: "However imperfect the English plan was, yet our late Government in Virginia was infinitely worse. With us two-thirds of the Legislature, and all the executive judiciary Powers were in the same hands. In truth it was very near a Tyranny, altho' the mildness with which it was executed under Whig direction, made the evil little felt." Dr. Ballagh has rendered a great service to historical scholarship in placing these letters before the public.

JOHN H. LATANÉ.

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CRETE, THE FORERUNNER OF GREECE. By C. H. Hawes and H. B. Hawes. New York and London: Harper & Brother. 1911.

The first edition of this little book was published in December, 1909, and after a little more than a year a second edition has been found necessary. Thus the excavations now going on